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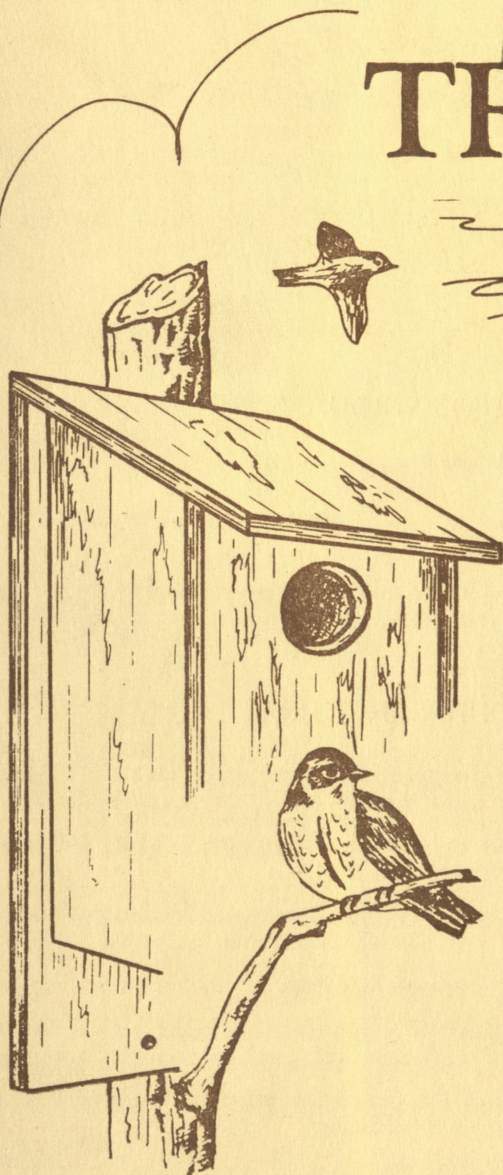
STACKS

# TRAILS

1961

V. 13, NOS. 1-3

Spring  
Summer  
Fall.



Published Quarterly by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Incorporated  
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT



# *The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary*

INCORPORATED  
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

CURATOR  
WILLIAM WYLIE

A CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND RECREATION FOR  
CHILDREN AND ADULTS

## WHAT IS THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY?

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Connecticut for the purpose of promoting a community program of conservation education. The program includes work for the preservation and restoration of our natural resources.

It is a unique community enterprise in that it is supported entirely by interested citizens through memberships and contributions.

## THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

Maintains 125 acres of land for the purpose of teaching others the ways and values of protection and restoration of our birds, wildlife and other natural resources.

Maintains a trailside museum and a series of nature trails which tell the story of nature in a most instructive and fascinating manner.

In co-operation with the schools, girl scouts, boy scouts, community centers and other youth organizations, promotes a program of conservation education for children.

Conducts a year around program of field trips and activities for members.

Operates a bird-banding station in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and co-operates with state and local conservation agencies.

Through personal guidance of the Curator, serves as a source of information and help on local and national conservation problems.

Furnishes information relative to the value of conservation to many individuals and organizations through correspondence, the press, and lectures.

Pursues a long range development program that insures a permanent and increasingly beneficial service to all local communities.



# PEQUOT TRAILS

Vol. XIII

Spring 1961

No. 1

## Dr. Heinz Meng Returns, March 19



**Dr. Heinz Meng about to hood a passage peregrine falcon.**

"Birds of Prey" will be the title of a Nature lecture to be given by Dr. Heinz Meng on Sunday afternoon, March 19 at 3:00 p.m., in the Palmer Auditorium. Sponsored jointly by the Sanctuary and the Connecticut Arboretum for the benefit of their programs, this lecture will be illustrated by a new movie and kodachrome slides showing various species of hawks in action and by a demonstration of live birds, including, we hope, a snowy owl.

Dr. Meng is already familiar to some of our members, as he appeared under our sponsorship several years ago. He is a graduate of Cornell University, where he studied hawks under the outstanding ornithologist, Dr. Arthur A. Allen. At present he is Associate Professor of Biology at State University College of Education, New Paltz, New York.

Not only are the hawks and owls most fascinating for the perfection of their adaptations to a way of life; this very way of life is important to the broad scheme in maintaining the balance of nature. It is important that the true role of these birds of prey be more generally understood by the public and that they continue to enjoy legal protection.



## PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

### A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

William Wylie, Curator  
Tel. Mystic JEfferson 6-9248

## Rudy Favretti April 13

Mr. Rudy Favretti, Garden Consultant at the University of Connecticut, will give a talk on "Trees, Shrubs and Flowers that Attract Birds" on Thursday, April 13, at 2:30 p.m. at the Sanctuary in the new Museum Building. The lecture will be free to Sanctuary members, with a fee of fifty-cents to non-members. Those who have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Favretti lecture or teach, feel that to hear him is an opportunity that should not be missed.

## Spring Field Trips Begin on Saturday, April 1

The spring and fall series of Saturday field trips have become as popular, if not more so, than the weekly Sunday walks here at the Sanctuary. The Saturday trips are held during the four main bird migration months each year and are scheduled to areas of greatest activity as the season progresses. While the trips are basically designed as bird trips, we do spend quite a bit of time working on the botany of the area, or seashore life, or whatever else seems to be of current interest.

Following is a detailed description of each of the Saturday trips to come this spring. This will be your only official notice of the trips so please post this schedule in some handy spot. In addition, your Curator will endeavor to announce each trip on Thursday in the New London Day and the West-erly Sun. These notices will be under the Mystic section.

April 1, 7:00 a.m. Barn Island  
April 8, 7:00 a.m. Mystic River  
April 15, 7:00 a.m. Napatree Point  
April 22, 7:00 a.m. Bluff Point  
April 29, 7:00 a.m. Napatree Point  
May 6, 7:00 a.m. Frank Eastman, Ledyard  
May 13, 7:00 a.m. Mitchell's Woods  
May 20, 7:00 a.m. Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford

May 27, 7:00 a.m. Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown

### April 1, Barn Island . 7:00 a.m.

Again, we will start the spring series of field trips at Barn Island. This is a favorite birding spot of many old time birders in this area. Waterfowl will be the main object of the trip but in the past, land birding has also been quite rewarding. Snowy owls have been reported from this spot this winter, and with some luck, we may be able to find one.

Local people can meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or on the Barn Island road at 7:00 a.m. Turn off U. S. No. 1 on the Green Haven Road and take the immediate right to Barn Island. The official starting point will be at the R.R. crossing on this road.

### April 8, Mystic River 7:00 a.m.

A trip along the Mystic River at this time of year is a definite gamble. If we have had good weather before this date and there have been a lot of small boats on the river, the waterfowl will be gone. In this event, the trip will be changed to a more productive area. However, if spring is late coming and the birds have not been disturbed by boats, an abundance of waterfowl should still be here at this time.



With the uncertainty of the trip, all participants will meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and the feasibility of the trip will be decided at that time.

**April 15, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.**

The trips to Napatree Point, while they involve the most walking, have been the most popular trips over the years. Birding is apparently good on the Point twelve months out of the year. These early trips the last two years have produced brant, willits, plovers, and many of the more common species of shore birds and waterfowl.

Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of Watch Hill Yacht Club. Wear warm clothing as this is apt to be a very cold windy trip.

**April 22, Bluff Point 7:00 a.m.**

Thanks to Mr. Henry Gardiner, the Sanctuary is able to have several field trips each year to one of the last remote and wild sections of coastline along eastern Connecticut, Bluff Point. This trip will not be aimed at any particular type of bird life, but just birds in general. The terrain is diversified and birds run the gamut from waterfowl and shore birds, through sparrows and typical woodland birds such as warblers and vireos.

Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or meet at the Groton Town Hall, Poquonnock Bridge, at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Walter J. Moran will again be honorary leader for the trip.

**April 29, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.**

This trip to Napatree will be a repetition of the trip of April 15 and the meeting place and time will be the same. It will be interesting to see the change in the bird life in the intervening two weeks.

**May 6 The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eastman, Shewville Road, Ledyard 7:00 a.m.**

This will be a bird trip led by Mr. and Mrs. Eastman. In addition, you will have a chance to observe wildlife plantings designed to attract birds. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the Eastmans at 7:00. To get there, take Iron Street out of Ledyard Center. Go to the first

stop sign, cross directly over this road and take the next road to your right. This will be Shewville Road and the Eastman's home will be the first house on your right. Drive in the driveway where you will find ample parking space.

**May 13, Mitchell's Woods, New London 7:00 a.m.**

Land birds will be the main objective of this trip to Mitchell's woods. The area has been quite productive in the past years for warblers, vireos, tanagers, gnatcatchers, cardinals, etc. The trip will again originate at the tennis courts at Mitchell's Woods, Montauk Avenue, New London. Those wishing to go with your Curator may meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m.

**May 20, Harkness Memorial State Park, Waterford 7:00 a.m.**

If a bird couldn't be found, the Harkness trip would still be considered a big success. The park itself, the buildings, the formal gardens, the sandy beach and the great expanse of open area, is reward enough for this trip. However, birds are found and in great numbers. By this date the herons should be here and the park is noted for its common egrets. Waterfowl will be about gone, but land birding will be good. To get to the park, follow the park signs from the new Turnpike of Great Neck Road, Waterford. Your Curator will leave the Sanctuary at 6:30 a.m.

**May 27, Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown 7:00 a.m.**

This is the third year of our spring trip to Pachaug. The trips are getting better each year as we are discovering more interesting areas to study. The favorite spot to date is an old woods road which goes for a quarter of a mile through a wonderful spruce bog. Pitcher plants and sundews abound, as do many other species of bog and swamp plants. An area such as this also has its own special brand of bird life. If you can only make one trip this entire spring, make this it.

This trip will leave the Sanctuary lot at 6:15 a.m. We will also meet again in front of the post office in Voluntown at 7:00 a.m.



## Sunday Morning Walks

### Resume on April 9

Spring migration is almost upon us and it will be only a matter of days now till the first arrivals appear. After an old fashioned winter like we are now experiencing, spring will be a most welcome relief. To take full advantage of the annual migration, the well established Sunday walks are being returned to their 7:00 a.m. starting time. These Sunday nature walks are well into their third year of continuous operation and the attendance has been most gratifying to your Curator.

As has been mentioned in this column many times before, the early morning hours are the best hours to observe birds. The small birds, song birds, are actively feeding after a long night on the roost without food. Song accompanies this active feeding period. Wood ducks can often be observed on the Sanctuary ponds in the early mornings before they have been spooked into hiding by the normal day's activities. By the second week in April, many of our nesting birds will already have arrived. Warblers will be around to some degree, as will tree swallows, resident sparrows, possibly some vireos and others too numerous to mention. The hour is really not early. Join these walks, enjoy your Sanctuary, and at the same time become acquainted with many interesting species of birds.

Your Sanctuary now boasts a brand new Trailside Museum which is adequately heated. The winter afternoon walks originate here. At the end of the walk we again gather at the Museum before a big fire in the fireplace, for some refreshments and some good old-fashioned talk. The Sunday morning walks will also start from the new museum. This is your Sanctuary. These are your walks. There are still some Sundays in March left for you to come and enjoy these afternoon get-togethers. Join the Sunday morning walks and meet other members and friends who have a mutual interest in the out-of-doors.

Remember how you used to feel when the first warm breaths of spring drifted through the budding trees, when you got the feeling that you just had to get out and smell the green things sprouting and listen to them grow; when the skunk cabbage (horrible name for a lovely plant) flamed its purple, gold and green in the wet places; when the hyla peepers sang their songs of spring particularly for you; when the frogs' eggs appeared in gelatinous masses in the still pools and you gathered them and watched them hatch in one of your mother's finger bowls (and sometimes you get salamander eggs instead), remember?

Oh, you do, do you? And do you still feel that way, and if not, why not? It's the same spring, it smells just as good as it ever did, particularly after a long, hard winter. The skunk cabbage is just as beautiful as it ever was. The peepers are singing their little batrachian hearts out just the same as ever, possibly more for the mate they wish to attract and a little bit less for you, but trilling just the same. The frogs' eggs are there again (maybe you don't want to gather them now—or do you?). It's spring; it's spring; IT'S SPRING!

Now will come the far travellers from their southern stay, winging north on soft, gentle breezes. Now the woodcock will perform his mating flight, while you stand entranced, wondering if he will alight at your feet (and he may do just that, too!). Now the mallards will make their carefree nesting arrangements and the skunks and 'coons will reap their harvests, as they always have done, thus perpetuating the ancient laws of Nature.

Soon we shall go fishing! The trout are there and the flies will be hatching; that big one is probably lurking there in the slick, just beside the mossy boulder. May the Little Red Gods grant that we are established for another year!

W.D.I.D.

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#### An Old Sampler reads:

Dear Father, hear and bless Thy singing birds,  
And guard with tenderness  
Small things that have no words.



## Bird of the Month

### American Robin (*Turdus Migratorius*)

#### Chosen as Official State Bird by The General Assembly of the State of Connecticut

The robin received its name from the early settlers because of its resemblance to the robin redbreast of England. The similarity lies only in coloration, for the English robin is a blackbird while our robin is a thrush, and the largest one in North America at that.

#### Spring Arrivals

The robin has been famed as the first sign of spring, but actually is not at its best in March. Far more expressive of the unfolding of spring is the gurgling of the redwing in the swamps, the shrilling of the killdeer over the meadows and the tinkling music of the song sparrows in our dooryards. The first days of spring find the robins comparatively silent, wandering restlessly, perching in high trees or in cedar pastures, expressing themselves in nervous exclamations as they closely follow the average daily temperature of 37° northward. But as April unfolds, they seem to become more friendly; they are more often seen in towns and villages and the rollicking song resounds more and more often until by about May 1 it becomes a dominant part of the bird chorus at dawn and dusk. It is almost as though there were two different robins, one early and one late. This may in part be true. The robins found in Alaska and the northern woods of Canada are not the friendly, confiding creatures to which we are accustomed, but rather are shy, wary and secretive. The earliest robins we see are very probably the northern breeders, while the April arrivals are those that intend to stay with us.

#### Nesting Habits

The nest of the robin, which is rather bulky, needs ample support and is often found in the crotch of a tree, consists of an untidy cluster of sticks, twigs and grasses, protruding from the outer wall, while a round, smooth cup of mud lined with a little fine grass forms the inner part. A rainy day is usually chosen for the mud plastering job, though robins have been known to dip a billful of dust into a bird bath or to wet the feathers and shake the drops onto a dusty road in order to form the needed mud. Worm castings may be used for lining. The mud is flattened into position by pressing it with the body and wings.

Usually four eggs are laid, but occasionally five, six or even seven may be found. Fine speckling or spotting of brown may be noted, but in general the eggs are blue and unmarked. The eggs are incubated for 12 days with almost all of the incubation being done by the female bird. The young leave the nest about two weeks after hatching and a few days later the male parent takes complete charge of them, leaving the female free to start another brood. Two or three broods may be raised a year.

While the female is building the nest, the cock robin is constantly on the watch for poaching on his territory (nesting and rearing area) by others of his kind whose presence might mean a lessened food supply for his family. He may carry this to an extreme by battling his own reflection on a shiny surface—a struggle that may continue for days or until the reflecting surface is covered.

#### Out in the World

After first leaving the nest the baby robins blunder about on the ground, causing their parents a great deal of concern. With their spotted breasts and stumpy tails they squat on the grass waiting to be fed and make an easy mark for cats and other predators. It is at this time, too, that well-meaning folk, seeing a baby bird alive in the grass, take it home, not realizing that the mother and father bird are not far away and if the baby is left alone the parents will return to it. It would be better in such a situation to see that the neighborhood cats are occupied elsewhere and to leave the baby so the parents can tend it without fear. In less than two weeks the young throw off the crouching attitude of the nestling and assume the erect, proud bearing of an adult and are able—but not always willing—to find food for themselves. This leaves the male bird free to help with the next brood, which is almost due.



The spotted breast of the young robin is lost in a fall molt beginning in August for the birds of the first brood, and continuing into September for the later broods. The plumage after his molt is similar to that of the adults, but is paler, being marked with white and light gray. The brighter, more clear-cut dress of spring is produced by a wearing away of the light tips of the fall plumage. This is not an uncommon phenomenon in birds and produces rather dramatic changes in some species. Albinism is quite common among robins.

#### **Diet**

The food of the robin is 60 per cent vegetable and in areas where fruit is raised commercially, robins can be a serious problem. The favored wild fruits are red cedar, greenbrier, mulberry, pokeweed, juniper and blackberry. They also enjoy beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers and, of course, worms. During unseasonable snowstorms in early spring, it is reported that robins can be induced to eat cottage cheese!

#### **And Then Departure**

As early as June some of the old male robins begin to gather at a community roost for the night. In July they are joined by the young of the first brood and when the last brood has been hatched, old and young, male and female, assemble at these roosts, using them nightly until the southward migration begins.

The migration to winter quarters begins in September when our robins begin to flock and move to the milder climate of the Middle Atlantic and Gulf states. By mid-October few robins are seen in the summer haunts, but in the woods and cedar pastures, large flocks are not uncommon. This is the complete circle again closing. Our birds have gone south and the northern breeders of Alaska and Canada have moved to their south, which for some of them means a winter vacation in New England.

—The Connecticut Wildlife Conservation Bulletin, May-June 1960

## **The President Speaks**

Sometimes you see the most interesting things!

The next time a blue jay avidly snatches your sunflower seeds, swallowing without cracking them, don't be fooled; just watch him. You will see him land, possibly on your lawn and, using his beak as a dibber, make a hole, drop in the seeds which he had crammed into his gullet, and then very carefully tamp the hole shut. If a fallen leaf happens to be at hand, it is often placed over the tamped hole! No longer need you wonder where all those sunflower seedlings come from! (The smarter squirrels know this trick and capitalize on it.)

And, like ourselves, different birds have different table manners. For instance, chickadees, titmice and jays all seem to hold the sunflower seed with their feet while they wrench the hull open. The finch types, those with the short massive beaks, the grosbeaks, purple finches, cardinals and even the English sparrows roll the seed about in the beak, like an alderman savoring a particularly special cigar, applying pressure here and there until the hull pops open and is discarded, the meat being very cleverly retained. Nuthatches hunt up a nice crevice in the bark of a tree, cram in the seed and then hammer it open.

Incidentally, did you ever see the male cardinal, a gentleman if ever there was one, rustle an exceptionally fine bit out of the feeder and then, in a courtly manner, present it to his mate?

Then there are those with exotic tastes. Several times when brewing my morning coffee I observed a robin alight upon an ant hill and proceed to stuff the ants under his wings, fluttering as though to ensure their getting well into the feathers. Had I not just previously read an article, complete with color photographs, describing "anting" by birds, I would have believed the robin to be slightly "off his rocker"—which is most improbable in Nature, of course. Farley Mowat, in his book "The Dog Who Wouldn't Be," describes a similar performance by Wol, his pet horned owl.

So, keep the feeders going!

W. D. I. Domer



## Evening Walks During May

Thursday evening "warbler walks" will again be conducted this year at the Sanctuary on the four Thursdays in May. These walks proved very popular last Spring, with many members and friends attending them. The walks will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last for an hour or until it gets too dark for good observation. Many people can not, or will not attend the early morning walks on the week ends, so this will be an opportunity for them and all other interested people to observe birds in the cool of the evening. We don't walk very far, but the birding is usually excellent during the evening hours.

You may be interested to know that the first wildlife exhibit has been placed in the Stonington Public Library by your Sanctuary. It features feeding habits of certain birds and mammals of this area and is designed to be of interest to children of all ages. It is hoped that this can be maintained as a continuing exhibit. Any bright ideas on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

## Annual Tea and Sale, December 9

There have been teas since the great tea clippers raced their precious cargoes across two oceans from Orient to Occident, probably even before that. There have also been sales, and even the idea of combining a tea and a sale is not new. It is even to be supposed that the combination of a tea and sale and a housewarming may have been tried before. There was, therefore, little of novelty in the event held December 9, when the Sanctuary combined the opening of its new Trailside Museum with its Annual Tea and Sale.

But there were novelties galore. The hundreds who streamed into the new building found them hanging from the ceiling and beams, on tables and counters, even on the floor. The women had worked for weeks devising and executing things for sale that were different. There were feeders and bird houses, Christmas tree ornaments, mobiles, fruit and flower arrangements, kissing balls, music boxes, shadow boxes and bobèches. And of course there was holly by the bunch, shipped by air from the far Northwest, and Christmas wreaths.

The mild weather brought problems of parking and foot-paths, but it also brought people, for the new building, snugly placed at the edge of a winter woodland, was a prime attraction for many. It looked, except for muddy ground left by the bull-dozer, as if it had always been there; it looked as if it belonged.

Inside, there was a good fire burning in the handsome new fieldstone fireplace, and refreshment tables provided tea and dainties for some, a wassail bowl for others. The hours were to be from 3:00 to 6:00, but the patrons were still streaming in at 7:00.

When the last bill was paid and the last ticket accounted for, financially the affair had exceeded the best previous effort by better than seventy per cent. To Mrs. Hugh L. M. Cole goes the larger credit, for her able chairmanship of the Tea, but as so often happens, her efforts would have availed little without the dedicated labors of a hard core of the membership, consisting of the usual faithful few. But the customers helped, too. More people bought more than ever before.

## OPENING SET FOR MAY 15

While the new Trailside Museum has already been seen by a large segment of the local public (Annual Tea and Sale December 9), and will be the place of a lecture (Rudy Favretti April 13), and has been used for Board and committee meetings; and while a lecture is scheduled for Palmer Auditorium this month (Dr. Heinz Meng March 19), Field Trips begin April 1, Sunday morning walks April 9, and Thursday Evening Walks in May . . .

May 15 has been set as "Opening Date." If all goes well (and all is going nicely), this means that on that date the new headquarters building will be fully manned, fully operating, with brand new exhibits in brand new exhibit cases, and Trading Post newly equipped. In other words, we are open now, but will be wide open May 15.



## New Year's Eve Dance — 1960

Even before it began, one hundred and eleven patrons and patronesses had assured the success of the annual New Year's Eve Benefit Dance. But when 325 tickets had been sold, President Domer and Hayward Gatch, General Chairman, decided to stop, worried that dancers might not have room to enjoy themselves. But, as often happens, all who supported the cause with patrons' fees or tickets, did not come to dance, so that the floor was just pleasantly crowded, with an estimated 250 dancers. John LaPresle's setting of outer space, inhabited by birds and other creatures the like of which you never saw before, surrounded the dancers. Each table had its missile center-piece.

Every arrangement went off like clock-work, making a canard of the old saw that the surest way to get nothing done is to put it into the hands of a committee. Every committee functioned with precision, and while only those directly concerned will ever know what planning and telephoning and advance details were accomplished in the weeks before, to the eye it all appeared to have been accomplished the day of the dance. That morning the Sanctuary "carry-all" shuttled tables, chairs, utensils, missiles and other baggage to the Mystic Art Gallery. Inside, John LaPresle and Bonnie Boronda were working around and in and out of a dozen of the dedicated who were setting up the chairs and tables, and putting a kitchen hodge-podge to rights.

It all totaled up to the largest number of patrons ever listed, the largest number of tickets ever sold, and the largest actual attendance. Was it due to able committee work, to John LaPresle's imaginative artistry, to the perfect weather, to the previous success of the Annual Tea and Sale, to the fact that last year's dance was remembered happily, to the food, the setups, or what? No one knows. Perhaps a combination of all these things.

At any rate, a grateful membership expresses its thanks not only to those of their own number who worked on committees and odd jobs, but to the following who made significant contributions:

To Hayward Gatch for his able chairmanship.

To John LaPresle for a herculean job of decorating the Art Gallery for the affair. His imaginative and original paintings around the walls evoked much admiring comment.

To Beonne Boronda for assistance in the decorations, and for her general helpfulness.

To Gus Peterle for his all around help, as on so many past occasions.

To Charles A. Brooks, General Manager of Mystic Seaport, for chairs and tables.

To William Previty of The Stonington Market, for free coffee to all.

To the Mystic Art Association for the use of the hall, and to the very able Firemen and police.

## Christmas Bird Census

### Christmas Bird Count Breaks Previous Record

We have achieved, on this past Christmas census, what may well prove to be one of the highest counts in the Northeast. The weather was miserable all day, with snow falling from 10:00 a.m. on through the rest of the day. Weather or not weather, the birding proved excellent, and we finished up the day with 112 species of birds and something over 14,000 individuals. This beats our previous record of December 27, 1958, by some 9

species and nearly 4,000 individuals.

Even with the fantastic count that was gotten this year, there were many rather common wintering birds which were not observed at all. It seems, to this writer, that a count of 120 to 125 species would not be impossible in our area.

Congratulations to all of the teams which were in the field this year.

William L. Wylie



**Christmas Bird Census, December 29, 1960, New London, Connecticut**

|                                                                                                                                                                          |      |                         |  |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|--|------|
| 7.5 mile radius centering on intersection of Gardner and Ocean Avenues, including Long Island Sound from Rocky Neck to Masons Island, Thames River north to Gales Ferry. |      |                         |  |      |
| Common loon                                                                                                                                                              | 24   | Purple sandpiper        |  | 37   |
| Red-throated loon                                                                                                                                                        | 4    | Great black-backed gull |  | 96   |
| Red-necked grebe                                                                                                                                                         | 5    | Herring gull            |  | 3453 |
| Horned grebe                                                                                                                                                             | 158  | Ring-billed gull        |  | 59   |
| Pied-billed grebe                                                                                                                                                        | 6    | Bonapart's gull         |  | 21   |
| Great cormorant                                                                                                                                                          | 36   | Mourning dove           |  | 23   |
| Great-blue heron                                                                                                                                                         | 23   | Great horned owl        |  | 1    |
| Black-crowned night heron                                                                                                                                                | 11   | Snowy owl               |  | 1    |
| Yellow-crowned night heron                                                                                                                                               | 1    | Barrel owl              |  | 1    |
| Mute swan                                                                                                                                                                | 66   | Long-eared owl          |  | 1    |
| Canada goose                                                                                                                                                             | 20   | Short-eared owl         |  | 1    |
| Brant                                                                                                                                                                    | 7    | Saw-whet owl            |  | 1    |
| Mallard                                                                                                                                                                  | 339  | Belted kingfisher       |  | 15   |
| Black duck                                                                                                                                                               | 612  | Yellow-shafted flicker  |  | 3    |
| Gadwall                                                                                                                                                                  | 1    | Hairy woodpecker        |  | 21   |
| Pintail                                                                                                                                                                  | 4    | Downy woodpecker        |  | 27   |
| Green-winged teal                                                                                                                                                        | 1    | Horned lark, northern   |  | 25   |
| European widgeon                                                                                                                                                         | 2    | Blue jay                |  | 102  |
| American widgeon (baldpate)                                                                                                                                              | 109  | Common crow             |  | 353  |
| Wood duck                                                                                                                                                                | 2    | Fish crow               |  | 8    |
| Canvasback                                                                                                                                                               | 19   | Black-capped chickadee  |  | 395  |
| Greater scaup                                                                                                                                                            | 861  | Tufted titmouse         |  | 12   |
| Lesser scaup                                                                                                                                                             | 27   | White-breasted nuthatch |  | 52   |
| Common goldeneye                                                                                                                                                         | 507  | Red-breasted nuthatch   |  | 1    |
| Bufflehead                                                                                                                                                               | 352  | Brown creeper           |  | 8    |
| Oldsquaw                                                                                                                                                                 | 10   | Carolina wren           |  | 45   |
| Common eider                                                                                                                                                             | 12   | Catbird                 |  | 5    |
| White-winged scoter                                                                                                                                                      | 14   | Brown thrasher          |  | 2    |
| Surf scoter                                                                                                                                                              | 31   | Robin                   |  | 20   |
| Common scoter                                                                                                                                                            | 17   | Hermit thrush           |  | 1    |
| Ruddy duck                                                                                                                                                               | 2    | Eastern bluebird        |  | 23   |
| Hooded merganser                                                                                                                                                         | 73   | Golden-crowned kinglet  |  | 4    |
| Common merganser                                                                                                                                                         | 158  | Ruby-crowned kinglet    |  | 3    |
| Red-breasted merganser                                                                                                                                                   | 1628 | Water pipit             |  | 2    |
| Cooper's hawk                                                                                                                                                            | 1    | Cedar waxwing           |  | 5    |
| Red-tailed hawk                                                                                                                                                          | 1    | Starling                |  | 1846 |
| Red-shouldered hawk                                                                                                                                                      | 1    | Myrtle warbler          |  | 32   |
| Rough-legged hawk                                                                                                                                                        | 2    | House sparrow (English) |  | 875  |
| Bald eagle                                                                                                                                                               | 1    | Eastern meadowlark      |  | 44   |
| Marsh hawk                                                                                                                                                               | 1    | Red-winged blackbird    |  | 16   |
| Pigeon hawk                                                                                                                                                              | 1    | Common grackle          |  | 54   |
| Sparrow hawk                                                                                                                                                             | 6    | Brown-headed cowbird    |  | 283  |
| Ruffed grouse                                                                                                                                                            | 1    | Cardinal                |  | 32   |
| Bobwhite                                                                                                                                                                 | 77   | Blue grosbeak           |  | 1    |
| Ring-necked pheasant                                                                                                                                                     | 20   | Dickcissel              |  | 2    |
| Clapper rail                                                                                                                                                             | 1    | Evening grosbeak        |  | 1    |
| American coot                                                                                                                                                            | 7    | Purple finch            |  | 49   |
| Killdeer                                                                                                                                                                 | 2    | Pine siskin             |  | 2    |
| Black-bellied plover                                                                                                                                                     | 2    | American goldfinch      |  | 42   |
| Ruddy turnstone                                                                                                                                                          | 3    | Rufous-sided towhee     |  | 10   |
| Greater yellowlegs                                                                                                                                                       | 1    | Savannah sparrow        |  | 3    |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |      | Sharp-tailed sparrow    |  | 2    |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |      | Seaside sparrow         |  | 3    |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |      | Slate-colored junco     |  | 215  |
|                                                                                                                                                                          |      | Tree sparrow            |  | 279  |

Continuation on next page.



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The list is incomplete, we hope. We have not yet achieved that 100 per cent participation we had anticipated. The account is still open, further equipment is needed, and future contributors' names will be published in TRAILS as an extension of this list.

#### Christmas Bird Census

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Chipping sparrow       | 4   |
| Field sparrow          | 18  |
| White-throated sparrow | 173 |
| Fox sparrow            | 31  |
| Song sparrow           | 122 |

|                                                                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Snow bunting                                                                                                             | 30     |
| Total species                                                                                                            | 112    |
| Number of individuals                                                                                                    | 14,300 |
| Shoveller, American woodcock, Razorbill, and Oregon junco were seen during the census period, but not on the census day. |        |



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